

# MN 506 The Young Adult World

Spring 2021 - 2 credits, grade only

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## Course Description

This course explores cultural, intellectual, emotional and spiritual experiences of US young adults (15-25) across generations, through the lens of fiction stories. Students in this seminar-style course will follow a practical theological method to explore artifacts of US young adult eras, bringing them into conversation with the resources of the Christian faith: scripture, reason, experience, and tradition. The goals of the course are to better understand the worldview(s) and felt needs of this age group; discern appropriate and effective ways to share the Gospel with young adults; and pay attention to moves of the Spirit toward transformation, faith formation, and discipleship already present.

**Prerequisite recommended: MN504 Young Adult Formation or MN531 Making Disciples 1**

## Course Objectives

By participating fully in this class, students will:

- Learn and practice a method of contemplative practical theological reflection in a variety of contexts;
- Experience the YA world through written and visual media popular among young adults.
- Articulate the characteristics and impact of cultural formation, with regards to formation as a disciple of Christ;
- Communicate Gospel truths in ways that meet young adults in their particular stage of developmental and learning needs;
- Describe and assess ways to approach the tasks of Christian formation with young adults;
- Explore best practices and develop personal skills relevant to leadership and ministry with young adults.

## Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
- Lead and nurture congregations to promote peace and justice in the public arena and encourage the witness and service of the church in mission to the world.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.
- Develop, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context.
- Adopt spiritual practices that nurture their personal lives as faithful disciples and witnesses.
- Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

## Requirements

1. Attendance, reading, and attentive participation in online book discussions – 20%
3. Three young adult interviews (600 words) – 15%
4. Book summary pages, 1 page per book – 40%
5. Final Project – 25%

## Required Texts

1. One young adult novel of your choice
2. The Hunger Games – Suzanne Collins (2008)
3. Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix – J.K. Rowling (2003)
4. The Giver – Lois Lowry (1993)
5. The Elfstones of Shannara – Terry Brooks (1982)
6. The Tombs of Atuan – Ursula Le Guin (1971)
7. The Wizard of Earthsea – Ursula Le Guin (1968)
8. A Wrinkle in Time – Madeleine L'Engle (1962)
9. The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (1950)

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Week	Week	Reading	Due
1	Jan 12-18	The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (1950)	
2	Jan 19-25	A Wrinkle in Time (1962)	Book Summary #1: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe YA Interview #1 Due
3	Jan 26-Feb 1	The Wizard of Earthsea (1968)	Book Summary #2: A Wrinkle in Time (1962)
4	Feb 2-8	The Tombs of Atuan (1971)	Book Summary #3: The Wizard of Earthsea (1968)
5	Feb 9-15	The Elfstones of Shannara (1982)	Book Summary #4 Due: The Tombs of Atuan (1971) YA Interview #2 Due;
6	Feb 16-22		Book Summary #5: The Elfstones of Shannara (1982)
7	Feb 23-Mar 1	<b>Reading Week</b>	
8	Mar 2-8	The Giver (1993)	YA Interview #3 Due
9	Mar 9-15		Book Summary #6: The Giver (1993); <b>Final Project Proposal Due</b>
10	Mar 16-22	Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix (2003)	
11	Mar 23-29	The Hunger Games (2008)	Book Summary #7: Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix (2003)
12	Mar 30-Apr 5	<b>Holy Week and Easter Break</b>	
13	Apr 6-12		Book Summary #8: The Hunger Games (2008)
14	Apr 13-19	YA book of your choice	
Final	April 20-26		Book Summary #9: YA book of your choice-Due Apr 26 <b>Final Project Due: April 29</b>