

MN 506 The Young Adult World

Spring 2022 (Online) - 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. Attentive participation in book discussions (either group or 1-to1 via Zoom) – 30%
3. Three young adult interviews (600 words) – 15%
4. Book summary pages, 1 page per book – 40%
5. Semester Learning Review – 15%

Required Texts

1. One young adult novel of your choice
2. The Hunger Games – Suzanne Collins (2008) – ISBN: 9780439023528
3. Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix – J.K. Rowling (2003) – ISBN: 9780439358064
4. The Giver – Lois Lowry (1993) - ISBN-13: 9780544336261
5. The Elfstones of Shannara – Terry Brooks (1982)- ISBN-13: 9780345285546
6. The Tombs of Atuan – Ursula Le Guin (1971) - ISBN-13: 9780689845369
7. The Wizard of Earthsea – Ursula Le Guin (1968) - ISBN-13: 9780547722023
8. A Wrinkle in Time – Madeleine L'Engle (1962) - ISBN-13: 9780312367541
9. The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (1950) - ISBN-13: 9780066238500