

Syllabus for  
**CHRM 456—Children's Ministry**  
3 Credit Hours  
Fall 2014

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Provides an overview of Christian education for children from birth through the sixth grade including age group characteristics, leadership of various ministries, spiritual development, methods, resources, and current trends.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to be able to do the following:

- A. Comprehend the physical, psychological, and social characteristics of children from birth through age 12.
- B. Understand the spiritual development of children and the theological concepts that can be perceived and experienced at various age levels.
- C. Develop an understanding of the principles of childhood Christian education and their application in the ministry of the local church.
- D. Gain an awareness of the contemporary cultural influences and crises affecting children.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Summarize the developmental stages and characteristics of each age group of children.
- B. Describe the relationship of theology and psychological development theory to ministry with children.
- C. Identify the theological concepts that can be understood and taught at various age levels.
- D. Present a lesson plan demonstrating knowledge of effective methods and materials for ministry with children.
- E. Summarize various forms of administrative process for children's ministries.
- F. Describe relevant cultural influences and crises affecting children and relate these to ministry objectives within the church.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

- A. Required Materials
  - 1. Textbooks

Csines, David and Ivy Beckwith. *Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus*.  
(ISBN: 978-0830841080) Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2014.

Frank, Ryan. *Give Me Jesus: Gospel-Centered Children's Ministry that Changes Lives*. (ISBN: 978-0830771011) Ventura, CA: Regal, 2014.

Jutila, Craig, et.al. *Children's Ministry that Work! Revised and Updated*. (ISBN: 0764424076). Loveland, CO: Group, 2002.

Wideman, Jim. *Children's Ministry Volunteers that Stick*. (ISBN:978-0764426735) Loveland, CO: Group, 2004.

2. Other: None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks: None
2. Other: None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software. By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means.
4. Final Exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
  - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting a WPA artifact is a zero for that assignment.
  - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences will affect your grade. See syllabus attendance policy.

1. Completion of a Course
  - a. All assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.**
  - b. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.
2. Incompletes
  - a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her

work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.

- b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.
- 3. Examinations and Other Assignments
  - a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
  - b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**
  - c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**
  - d. **All** exams will be given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
  - e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.
- 4. Attendance
  - a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows for a three-semester hour class:
    - (1) If the class meets three times a week, the missing of 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 8 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of two letter grades. Missing 12 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
    - (2) If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of two letter grades. Missing 8 sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
    - (3) If the class meets once a week, then missing 2 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
  - b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, and are not designed for indiscriminate use.** Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University

business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.

- c. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies will equal one absence.**

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

a. Course Final Grade

The final grade for the course will be acquired as follows:

(1)	Two examinations (10% midterm; 20% final)	= 30%
(2)	Summary/Interactive Reports	= 20%
(3)	Group lesson presentation	= 20%
(4)	Group Reading/Interaction	= 30%
		<u>100%</u>

b. Grade Scale:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and Below

2. Other Policies and Procedures

- a. Examinations(10% midterm, 20% final): Two examinations will be administered. Each exam will have objective, short answer and essay components; and will include lectures, textbooks, films, and guest lecturers.
- b. Summary/Interaction Reports (20%): The student will complete a Summary/Interaction Report for each chapter in the Jutila, Wideman, and Frank texts, and submit each to the appropriate folder in D2L **prior** to coming to class. These reports will be the basis of daily participatory discussion within the class. If the student is absent, the assignment will earn up to 50%; if the student has an excused absence, the assignment will earn up to 80%.
- c. Group Lesson Presentation (20%): Student groups of two-to-three will prepare and present a lesson that would be intended for use in the religious instruction of children. A variety of instructional methods and visual aids should be used. A brief lesson plan for the teaching session will be required.
- d. Group Reading and Interaction with *Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus* (30%) (in class discipleship group). The class will form small groups. Leadership will rotate among the group members. Topics for discussion will be assigned from the above mentioned textbook. Each student will come prepared for the discussion by completing a Summary/Interaction Report on each chapter—submitted to the appropriate folder in D2L prior to the start of the class. If the student is absent, the assignment will earn up to 50%; if the student has an excused absence, the assignment will earn up to 80%.

3. Whole Person Assessment Requirements: None

## VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Reading schedules and assignment dates will be provided during the first week of class.

WEEK	TOPIC
1	Biblical/Historical Perspectives
2	Philosophy, Mission, and Objectives
3	Developmental Stages of Children
4	Theological Understanding
5	Spiritual Formation
6	Age Specific Ministries
7	Administration of Children's Ministry
8	Lesson Planning/Learning Environments
9	Utilizing Methods and Resources
10	Learning Styles
11	Student Group Presentations
12	Student Group Presentations
13	Ministry Programming
14	Ministry Programming
15	Contemporary Cultural Implication

**Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes**  
**CHRM 456—Children's Ministry**  
**Fall 2014**

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

<b>OUTCOMES &amp; Proficiencies/Capacities</b>		<b>Significant Contribution</b>	<b>Moderate Contribution</b>	<b>Minimal Contribution</b>	<b>No Contribution</b>
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<b>1</b>	<b>Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge	X			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit		X		
1C	Evangelistic capability		X		
1D	Ethical behavior			X	

<b>2</b>	<b>Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Informational literacy		X		
2C	Global & historical perspectives		X		
2D	Aesthetic appreciation			X	
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			

<b>3</b>	<b>Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X

<b>4</b>	<b>Outcome #4 – Socially Adept</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills	X			
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences		X		
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity	X			