

Syllabus for
CHRM 456—Children’s Ministry
3.0 Credit Hours
Spring 2000

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course 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.

Course 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. demonstrate 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. COURSE OBJECTIVES

To demonstrate the achievement of the above goals, 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. demonstrate 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

- A. Required Textbooks

Clark, Robert E., Brubaker, JoAnne, and Zuck, Roy B. *Childhood Education in the Church*. Revised edition. Chicago: Moody, 1986.

Stonehouse, Catherine. *Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey: Nurturing a Life of Faith*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Bowdon, Boyce A. *The Child Friendly Church: 150 Models of Ministry with Children*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.

B. Selected Bibliography

Barber, Lucie W. *The Religious Education of Preschool Children*.

Brown, Jeanette P. *The Storyteller in Religious Education*.

Choun, Robert J. and Lawson, Michael S. *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Children's Ministry*.

Clark, Robert E. *Teaching Preschoolers with Confidence*.

David, Kenneth and Charlton, Tony. *Pastoral Care Matters in Primary and Middle Schools*.

Harris, Judith. *The Nurture Assumption: Why Children Turn Out the Way They Do*.

Ingle, Clifford, ed. *Children and Conversion*.

Johnson, Evelyn M. R. and Bower, Bobbie. *Building a Great Children's Ministry*.

Myers, Barbara and William. *Engaging in Transcendence: The Church's Ministry and Covenant with Young Children*.

Richards, Lawrence. *A Theology of Children's Ministry*.

_____. *Children's Ministry: Nurturing Faith within the Family of God*.

Rochlkepartain, Jolene, ed. *Children's Ministry that Works*.

Schowalter, Richard. *Igniting a New Generation of Believers*.

Zarra, Ernest. *It Should Never Happen Here: A Guide for Minimizing the Risk of Child Abuse in Ministry*.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University.
2. Double cuts will be assessed for absences immediately preceding or following holidays.
3. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
4. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.
5. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software.

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.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline will be received but will be granted a grade of zero for that assignment.
 - 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 chairman 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 Policy Exception 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.
 - c. A Petition for Policy Exception may generate a \$20 processing fee.
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 chairman: Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The petition is: 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 students 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.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

a. Course Final Grade

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

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|-----|---|-------|
| (1) | Two examinations (20% midterm; 20% final) | = 40% |
| (2) | Interactive reading reports (2) | = 15% |
| (3) | Ministry observation (3) | = 20% |
| (4) | Group lesson presentation | = 20% |
| (5) | Class participation | = 5% |

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. Readings: Students are expected to read the assigned textbooks. Readings and assignments are to be completed before class and often are the basis for discussion.
- b. Examinations: Two examinations will be conducted. The final exam will be comprehensive.
- c. Interactive Reading/Response: Each student will read two articles concerning current cultural influences or crises facing today's children (divorce, abuse, violence, poverty, chronic illness, media content, internet access, etc.) and report on their findings. Reports will include both a summary of the information presented and an evaluation of its implication for ministry with children. Report forms will be provided.
- d. Ministry Observation: Each student will observe ministry to children in the local church and report on their observations. Three observations will be required—one in each of the three age divisions: preschool, grades 1-3, and grades 4-6. Reports will include the date, place, and time of the session; the nature and needs of the children taught; the theological concepts presented, the appropriateness or inappropriateness of the methods and materials used, and suggestions for improvement. Report forms will be provided.
- e. Group Lesson Presentation: Student groups of two-to-three will participate in a classroom demonstration of 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.

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 Implications

VII. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Tammy Denton, MA
Name of Instructor

CHRM 456
Course No.

Children's Ministry
Title of Course

Theology and Missions
Name of Department

MISSION

The lifestyle at ORU is rooted in the word "Wholeness." ORU seeks to educate the whole person, with balanced emphasis placed on the development of mind, spirit, and body.

GENERAL OUTCOMES

1. Spiritual Development
2. Physical Development
3. Communication
4. Analysis
5. Problem Solving
6. Valuing in Decision Making
7. Social Interaction
8. Global Perspectives
9. Effective Citizenship
10. Aesthetic Responsiveness

MAJOR OUTCOMES

Spiritual Development:
Increase understanding of and appreciation for the role of the church in providing meaningful ministry to children.

Provide the knowledge and skills needed to oversee the spiritual training of children through Biblical instruction and application activities.

Communication:
Develop the background necessary to define a sound Biblical, theological, and educational philosophy of Christian education to children.

Explore the current trends and practices of effective children's ministry both within the church and beyond the church.

Analysis/Problem Solving:
Discuss and establish a philosophical framework and the skills needed to provide effective leadership of the children's ministry program in the local church.

COURSE GOALS

Comprehend the psychological, physical, and spiritual development of children.

Demonstrate an understanding of effective methods and materials for ministry to children.

Identify and synthesize various forms of administrative process in children's ministry.

Increase awareness of the current cultural influences and crises affecting children.

ASSESSMENT OF COURSE GOALS

STIMULI:

Interactive reading reports
Examinations
Ministry observation
Lesson presentation

CRITERIA:

Midterm Exam	20%
Reading Reports	15%
Observations	20%
Lesson Presentation	20%
Class Participation	5%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Tammy Denton, MA
Name of Instructor

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MAJOR OUTCOMES (Cont.)

Provide an understanding of how to mobilize others to aid in the nurturing, teaching, and training ministry of the church.

Social Interaction:

Develop an awareness of the impact of current cultural trends and crises upon children.

Provide the information necessary to more fully understand children and to provide relevant and contextualized ministry to children.