

**MN 506 The Young Adult World**  
**J-Term 2018 - 2 credits, grade only**  
**Dr. Susan Forshey**

**Course Description**

This course explores cultural, intellectual, emotional and spiritual experiences of US young adults (15-25) 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.



**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 the class – 20%
3. Three young adult interviews (600 words) – 15%
4. Two book summaries and analysis for evangelism/discipleship/formation concepts – 30%
5. Final Project: Curriculum for a young adult book group - 35%

**Required Texts**

The Hunger Games (2008)  
Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix (2003)  
The Giver (1993)  
The Elfstones of Shannara (1982)  
The Wind in the Door (1973)  
The Tombs of Atuan (1971)  
The Wizard of Earthsea (1968)  
A Wrinkle in Time (1962)