CE514
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

SYLLABUS

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
CHARLOTTE

SPRING 2016

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Associate Professor of Practical Theology

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: The historical and philosophical development and the biblical principles of Christian education and are examined and applied. Attention is given to the discipleship process and faith development, the teacher/learner process, small group development, age differentiated ministry needs in the local church, working with volunteers, developing lesson plans and directing the Christian education program of the church.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

COGNITIVE (KNOW/UNDERSTAND):

1. The student will learn how Christian education and discipleship are interrelated, as well as the importance of a comprehensive Philosophy of Ministry for the educational needs of the local church ministry.
2. The student will gain a greater understanding of the “big picture” of Christian education needs in the life of the local church.
3. The student will learn how individuals develop in mind and faith and how such development applies to the Christian education process.
4. The student will learn how to recruit and oversee the work and ministry of volunteers.
5. The student will learn the value and usefulness of a small group ministry.
6. The student will learn specific applications to the needs of the following age groups in the church: children, youth, adults, including singles’, men’s and women’s ministries.
7. The student will learn the basic principles involved in the teaching/learning process.
8. The student will learn how to ask insightful questions for Bible study purposes.
9. The student will learn how to prepare a lesson plan.

AFFECTIVE (FEEL/MOTIVATION):

1. The student will grow in his/her conviction and passion to make disciples of Christ in his/her ministry.
2. The student will grow in his/her desire to ascertain the spiritual needs of all members and generations of the church and to assure that those needs are being met.
3. The student will grow in his/her understanding of the needs of volunteers and in his/her understanding of the benefits of the ministry of working personally with volunteers.
4. The student will grow in his/her love for teaching others.
5. The student will delight in the use of the “question methodology” for ministry and study purposes.
6. The student will grow in commitment to the use of the three learning domains in the teacher/learner process.
7. The student will grow in increased awareness of the liabilities of church ministry.

VOLITIONAL (DO/COMPETENCIES):

1. The student will work through the development of a Philosophy of Ministry for a given area of Christian education in his/her ministry or church.
2. The student will choose an area of interest in Christian Education and write his/her observations and conclusions with an application to ministry in the area studied.
3. The student will prepare a lesson plan based on the three learning domains.
4. The student will engage in the task of creating inductive Bible study questions for small group ministry settings.
and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Ability Description</th>
<th>Skill Level</th>
<th>Relevance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preach</td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Discipleship and small group ministry will be addressed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Discipleship and small group ministry will be addressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Discipleship and small group ministry will be addressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Discipleship and small group ministry will be addressed.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:  (Approximately 985 pages)

   NOTE: Read 200 pages (your choice) from this textbook.
3. IN ADDITION TO THE READING ABOVE, THE STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO READ 750 PAGES FROM ANY OF THE BOOKS LISTED BELOW IN THE RECOMMENDED READING LIST. Multiple books are allowed.

Recommended Reading (Highlighted are particularly recommended):


   An excellent treatment of Jesus’ plan to evangelize the world though his disciples.

   A classic.


51. MaHaney, C. J. *Why Small Groups?*


   An insightful philosophical approach to ministry that encourages maintaining an approach to ministry based upon people and their needs in a setting in which structure counts.


63. Oestreicher, Mark. *Youth Ministry 3.0*


77. Scott, Bobby. *Probing the Hearts of Our Children: A tool that God may use to reach the source of their behavior*. Perimeter Church School Publication.

78. Senter, Mark. *Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church*.


A tremendous diagnosis of the present generation that is emerging into the maturity of adulthood. Valuable as a recent text that studies college age individuals.


**RESOURCES FOR MEN’S MINISTRY**


**REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:**

I. Class attendance and discussion.

You will be expected to participate in the class discussion, especially as we interact with the textbooks and assigned reading, as well as the required papers.

II. Reading (25% of course grade)

Reading is required and the student will be graded through an honor system method.

III. Papers (50% of course grade)

Two papers are required for the course.

**Papers must be** (Note: you can lose points here):

1. Double-spaced
2. **Numbered**
3. Place your name only on the cover sheet
4. **12 point/Times Roman typeset with standard margins.**
5. Cite at least 5 sources, excluding the course textbooks. You may include one personal interview with a pastor or leader in ministry as a source. Sources should be listed at the end of the paper. Footnotes are not necessary but are permitted.

The student must choose to write on **one** topic from **each** of the following two categories:
1. Philosophy of Ministry (choose one, or you may write two 4-page papers on two subjects, if you wish):

   a. Christian Education in the Local Church: Create a holistic Philosophy of Ministry for the entire church’s Christian Education approach (discipleship for all ages). Will you use programs? How will age groups and sexes be divided? Will your approach be simple or complex? Address curriculum choices, meeting times, potential problems and solutions, etc.

   b. Children’s Ministry: Create a Philosophy of Children’s Ministry (Nursery – 5th Grade)

   c. Youth Ministry: Create a Philosophy of Youth Ministry (6th-12th Grade)

   d. Men’s Ministry: Create a Philosophy of Men’s Ministry

   e. Women’s Ministry: Create a Philosophy of Women’s Ministry

   f. Single Adults Ministry: Create a Philosophy of Ministry for a Single Adult Ministry

   g. Older Adults Ministry: Create a Philosophy of Ministry for an Older Adults Ministry

   h. College Ministry: Create a Philosophy of Ministry for a local church in a college town, as it works with its own college students, as well as with students and staff engaged in parachurch campus ministries

   i. Camping, Conferences and Retreats: Create a Philosophy of Ministry for the use of Christian camps, conferences and retreats

Optional Philosophy of Ministry Assignment: Rewrite Your Original Leadership course POM

If you have previously written a Philosophy of Ministry (POM) Statement for the RTS Leadership course (in the first year only), use that POM as a guide for this assignment. Most assuredly, your POM has changed from the first time you wrote it in the first year of RTS until the time of taking this course (assuming the 3rd year or later). Therefore, using the original POM from the Leadership course, simply highlight (CAPS or Yellow color fonts) the changes you have thought through and made in your present POM thinking. Footnote the changes and briefly explain why your POM has changed since the previously written POM).

   Length: 8 pages minimum (Please Number Your Pages)
   Due Date: March 7, 2016.

2. Special Christian Education Focus (choose one):

   a. Create a Policy for the Church Nursery: Provide a written church nursery policy.

   b. Do a Study in Church Liability: Describe the need of church liability and write a basic church policy covering liability in all areas of the church ministry
c. The question of the **Church/Christian School**: Independent or church-related? Advantages and Disadvantages. Financial requirements. How to start a Christian school, etc. Discuss the issues and requirements involved in a church-sponsored Christian school.

d. Home School, Christian School, Private School and Public **School Debate**: Explain the issues and how you will create an environment of acceptance (or tolerance) for all positions in your local church body of believers.

e. **Curriculum Study**: Research various types of curriculum made available by different publishers. Choose an age group (toddlers, preschool, children, teens, adults, or any one specific grade school age). Describe, analyze and compare three different types of curriculum (evangelical vs. Reformed or different types of Reformed curriculum or three types of evangelical curriculum) and explain and give a rationale for which ones you would use if given the task of choosing one for your church.

f. **Single’s Ministry**: Create a one-year curriculum: Include topics, Scripture Passages, Materials, etc.

g. **Adult Ministry**: Create a one-year curriculum for teaching adults. Include topics, textbooks, lesson plans with or without learning activities, etc.

h. Ministry to the divorced (**single again**) and widows and widowers: create a policy and approach to this special needs group in the local church.

i. **Elder or Officer Training Program**

j. **Teacher Training Program**

k. Ministry to the **Disabled**: create a policy and approach to this special needs group in the local church.

l. **Faith and Moral Development**: Study the developmental stages of the individual and explain how these stages impact and affect learning, as well as the development of faith and morality in the growing child/believer.

m. **Brookstone Schools Visit**: Take a trip to Brookstone School ([http://www.brookstoneschools.org/](http://www.brookstoneschools.org/)) and visit a classroom, a chapel service (held on Thursdays; you could possibly be the volunteer speaker) and do a 20-minute interview with either the principal or with Mrs. Suzanne Wilson, one of the founders, in order to learn about this unique ministry. Write a summary of your visit and any observations which you have made due to the trip. (Length: 2-3 pages)

n. **Other**: with the permission of the professor, choose an area of interest in Educational Ministries in the Church. Research, study and present your findings and conclusions.

Length: 6 Pages minimum (Please Number Your Pages)

Due Date: May 2, 2016

IV. Final Exam (25% of course grade)

The final exam will be a comprehensive, written exam which will cover content from all of the lectures and all of the reading (general concepts).
Due: Exam Week

POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: Research papers require borrowing other people's ideas and words. However, the source of such borrowing must be acknowledged properly so that your ideas are clearly distinguished from ideas that you borrowed. If the source is not acknowledged properly, your work is plagiarism. For an excellent summary on what constitutes plagiarism, see Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (rev. by Wayne C. Booth, etc.; 7th ed.; Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), pp. 77-80 (section 7.9). Plagiarism includes word-for-word copying, lifting terms, restatement of someone's argument or line of thought, etc. – all without acknowledgment of source. Plagiarism also includes giving a source partial credit when more is taken from that source than indicated. Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, is very serious. All plagiarism cases are referred to the Academic Dean for resolution. Consequences may include some of the following:
- repeat the assignment and receive a maximum of a D on the assignment
- receive an F on the assignment
- receive an F in the course
- expulsion from the seminary

POLICY ON LATE WORK: Any work turned in late and without either a written excuse or previous permission granted by the professor will be docked one point/day for that assignment. Excuses for late work will be accepted for dire medical needs or reasons or other extreme emergencies.

POLICY ON GRAMMAR AND SPELL CHECK: Any work turned in which appears to lack “proofing” or displays poor grammar will receive a small penalty affecting the grade.
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>02/08</td>
<td>Introduction: Philosophy of Ministry: Disciple-Making</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>02/15</td>
<td>Introduction: Philosophy of Ministry (continued)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>02/22</td>
<td>Introduction: Methods of Teaching</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>02/29</td>
<td>Lesson Planning: The Art of Asking Questions</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>03/07</td>
<td>Lesson Planning: Forming Lessons - “Know, Feel, Do”</td>
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<td>&gt;Assignment Due: Philosophy of Ministry</td>
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<td>03/14</td>
<td>READING WEEK</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>03/21</td>
<td>Children’s Ministry: Role of the Covenant</td>
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<td>Dr. Doug Falls, Stonebridge Church Community</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>03/28</td>
<td>Lesson Planning: Forming Lessons - “Know, Feel, Do”</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>04/04</td>
<td>Leadership: Oversight: Organization and Administration</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>04/11</td>
<td>Recruiting and Training Volunteers</td>
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<td>Dr. Doug Falls, Stonebridge Church Community</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>04/18</td>
<td>Youth Ministry: Brief History and Various Models</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>04/25</td>
<td>Place and Role of Small Groups in the Church</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>05/02</td>
<td>Ministry to Men and Fathers</td>
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<td>&gt;Assignment Due: Special Christian Education Focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>05/09</td>
<td>Legal and Ethical Issues in Church Ministry</td>
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<td>05/12-17</td>
<td>FINAL EXAMS</td>
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RTS Charlotte Classroom Internet Usage

RTS Charlotte recognizes how essential it is for students to have reliable, campus-wide access to the internet. For that reason, we have made wi-fi available for our student body, not only in the library and student lounges, but also in the classrooms. We know that students need to use the internet to download class materials, access files on the Cloud, and to access other important information.

However, we also recognize that internet access in the classroom provides opportunity for abuse and misuse. Some students have unfortunately used their internet access to engage in many activities that distract them from the classroom lectures (e.g., surfing the web, checking sports scores, playing games). Not only does such activity hamper a student’s own seminary education, but it distracts other students who can see their computer screens. In addition, donors and classroom guests (who often sit in the back) can see this inappropriate internet usage, which reflects poorly on RTS.

So, how can these challenges be addressed? One option is to turn off the internet entirely. But, we recognize that this creates problems for students who use it for legitimate reasons. Thus, we prefer to address this problem by appealing to the integrity of the students as ones who are preparing for a lifetime of ministry to Christ and his church. We are asking each student to take personal responsibility for their behavior in this area and to encourage others around them to do the same.

In order to encourage this accountability, and to change the culture of the campus as it pertains to the internet, we are asking each student to sign the pledge below at the beginning of each term. As a pledge, we ask you to sign with integrity and with an honest desire to keep it.

“On my honor as a student at Reformed Theological Seminary, and as a one preparing for the gospel ministry, I pledge that I will use the internet in the classroom only for appropriate class-related activities.”

Signed:___________________________________________________

Date: _____________________________________________________