CE514
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH
(Revised 11/11/08)

SYLLABUS

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY CHARLOTTE

SPRING 2009

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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 or 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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:  (Approximately 850 pages)

   NOTE: You can choose 5 chapters not to read in this book, but you must submit a page listing which specific chapters you did not read along with a one-sentence explanation regarding why you did not read the chapter which you omitted.

On Reserve (required reading):


Recommended Reading:


**REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:**

I. Class attendance and discussion (13% of course grade).

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 (12% 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 double-spaced, 12 point/Times Roman typeset with standard margins. 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.

The student must choose to write on one topic from each of the following two categories:

1. **Philosophy of Ministry (choose one or if you wish to write two 4 page papers on two subjects, that is permissible):**
   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. 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
h. Camping, Conferences and Retreats: Create a Philosophy of Ministry for the use of Christian camps, conferences and retreats

Length: 8 pages
Due Date: March 13, 2009.

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. Single’s Ministry: Create a one-year curriculum: Include topics, Scripture Passages, Materials, etc.
f. Adult Ministry: Create a one-year curriculum for teaching adults. Include topics, textbooks, lesson plans with or without learning activities, etc.
g. Ministry to the divorced (single again) and widows and widowers: create a policy and approach to this special needs group in the local church.
h. 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
i. 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
Due Date: April 17, 2009

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: Cheating is the use of another person’s work on behalf of your own work, with the assumption being that it is your work. The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers says, “To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from someone else.” Plagiarism is the use of ideas, information and content from a particular source without giving credit to that source by footnoting the source or accounting for it in a bibliography. Cheating will result in an automatic zero (0) grade for the assignment, paper or exam involved. Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, is considered academic theft. The RTS academic consequences of plagiarism are
as follows: 1) First offense: The student must rewrite the paper and receive no better than a passing “D” grade for it. 2) Second offense: The student fails the entire course.

**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.

**POLICY ON INTERNET USAGE (From the RTS/Charlotte Student Handbook):** Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times as mature believers. Godly behavior, expected of all Christians, is especially required of those who are preparing themselves to become ministers of the Word. Classroom manners should reflect this maturity. Students should be respectful of professors, attend all class periods, and hand in assignments on time. Classroom etiquette also includes leaving cell phones turned off, refraining from surfing the Internet and laptop computer games and talking to your neighbor during lectures.
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<td>02/06</td>
<td>Introduction: Philosophy of Ministry: Disciple-Making</td>
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<td>02/13</td>
<td>Leadership: Organization and Administration - Structure</td>
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<td>Major Theories of Development</td>
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<td>Children’s Ministry: Role of the Covenant (Dr. Doug Falls)</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Moral and Faith Development</td>
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<td>The Place and Role of Small Groups and The Church</td>
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<td>&gt;Assignment Due: Philosophy of Ministry</td>
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<td>READING WEEK</td>
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<td>Adult Ministry: Women’s Ministry/Men’s Ministry/Single’s Ministry</td>
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<td>Lesson Planning: Forming Lessons - “Know, Feel, Do” &gt;Assignment Due: Special Christian Education Focus</td>
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<td>11 04/24</td>
<td>Recruiting and Volunteers (Dr. Doug Falls) Anthony, Christian Education, chapter 18.</td>
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FINAL EXAMS