APPLIED THEOLOGY: SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR LEADERS

Doctor of Ministry Core 2DM802

January 18-22, 2016

Steve Childers

Course Description

A Christian leader must lead from character before skill. Therefore, in this course students will be given an overview of the biblical and theological principles regarding the development of mature Christian character. This will help them develop a theological approach to spiritual growth and renewal in their ministries.

Students will be shown how to experience the transforming power of the gospel in their lives and ministries through understanding and applying theological truths related to the Gospel of God’s grace. They will also learn ways to be agents of gospel transformation in light of the Church’s mission to make disciples of all nations. Special focus will be placed on the application of the practical theology of English Puritans (1550–1700) such as John Owen and Richard Baxter.

Course Instructor

Steve Childers is a professor of Practical Theology (since 1995) at Reformed Theological Seminary, in Orlando, Florida, where he regularly teaches evangelism, spiritual formation, church planting, missions, and leadership. He has earned graduate degrees from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Chicago, and Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando. Steve has also done doctoral studies in leadership development and global missions at Fuller Theological Seminary’s School of World Mission in Pasadena, California.

Steve is the founder and President of Pathway Learning (formerly GCA) based in Orlando whose mission is to provide multimedia seminary courses for underserved church leaders worldwide. He planted and pastored two churches (urban and suburban) in North America. Since then Steve has written church planting, renewal and multiplication training curriculum and, through RTS and Pathway Learning, helped train thousands of church leaders from more than 300 denominations representing over 50 countries in 7 languages on 5 continents.

Steve and his wife Becky live in Orlando, Florida, and have three grown daughters, two son-in-laws, and three grandchildren. Learn more about Steve’s ministries:

• Web: http://www.pathwaylearning.org
• Blog: http://www.stevechilders.org
• Twitter: https://twitter.com/stevechilders
• Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/steve.childers
Course Objectives

A Mind for Truth
- To understand and articulate a biblical theology of personal spiritual growth and renewal, especially as it relates to the centrality of the cross and the gospel.
- To understand the biblical imperative for personal holiness and the priority of ongoing spiritual growth and renewal in the life of the church leader today.
- To understand the biblical nature of the gospel’s transforming power, especially as it relates to the Kingdom of God and mission of the church.
- To understand, evaluate and appreciate various principles, methods and models used today to help people grow spiritually.
- To be acquainted with the extensive literature relating to personal spiritual growth and renewal (especially English Puritan literature) and be able to think biblically and critically about how it can be used properly and effectively in the student’s life and ministry.

A Heart for God
- To experience personal spiritual growth and renewal through the transforming power of the gospel.
- To diagnose and repent from the core idols (sin beneath the sin) that draw the student’s heart affections away from Christ.
- To appropriate the transforming pardon and power of the gospel of Jesus Christ through setting the student’s heart affections on Him by faith.
- To show love for God and others by loving God’s Law, obeying it by God’s grace, and allowing it to lead the student to Jesus Christ for transformation into His image.
- To practice spiritual disciplines (such as meditating on Scripture, prayer, journaling, fasting, witnessing, etc.) as a means of setting the student’s heart affection on Christ.
- To be used by God as an agent of personal spiritual growth and renewal in the lives of others.

A Life for Ministry
- To lay a strong foundation for future studies in the dynamics of how the gospel brings spiritual growth and renewal both personally and corporately.
- To lay a strong foundation for the practical development of church-based ministries of spiritual growth and renewal, especially for those planning to be church planters, pastors and missionaries.
- To obtain a set of criteria for evaluating spiritual growth and renewal principles, methods, materials, programs and trends.
Course Requirements

Pre-Class Reading Assignments & Reports: Due January 18, 2016
There will be 2000 pages of new reading (not having been previously read by the student) assigned for the course from the Required Reading list below. If required reading texts cannot be found, or have previously been read, the student may substitute books from the Recommended Reading list below. All readings for the course must be taken directly from these two lists unless otherwise approved by the professor.

Doctor of Ministry credit students are required to submit a Reading Report (RR), giving evidence of their reading and interaction with the concepts in the assigned books/articles. This Word document must begin with a Summary Sheet and is followed by a one-page standard report for each book (see Course Reading Report Forms below). Please separate the summary and each one-page book report with a page-break.

The Reading Report (RR) must be received electronically (by email as an attachment) by the first day (and meeting) of class. Students will receive a grade reduction for late reading reports. Reading Reports not submitted by the first day/meeting of class are to be submitted with the course integration paper on April 30, 2016. Please submit to dmin.orlando@rts.edu and name your Reading Report document as Yourlastname.AppliedTheology.W16.RR. Non-credit (audit) students do not submit reports.

Class Attendance and Participation
This course follows the lecture, discussion and small group sharing methods requiring attendance and participation at all classes. Tardiness and absences will affect the course grade. Class lectures and group discussions will be based on the assumption that the student has completed the assigned readings. Occasionally, individual and small group work sessions will be conducted during class time. Students will be required to create, present and participate in class presentations.

Post-Class Integration Paper: Due April 30, 2016
Students are required to write a 15-20 page (double–spaced, 12 point font) course integration paper. This paper must reflect new work done by the student as a result of this course. This paper must demonstrate how the course readings, lectures, and discussions can be integrated/applied to the student’s life and ministry. This paper should reflect good scholarship, including accurately quoted credible sources (8 minimum references/footnotes) and a References Cited section at the end of the paper. This is good preparation for writing a dissertation.

The integration paper is due (electronic copy in RTS inbox) April 30, 2016. Please include a cover sheet with the name and number of the course, professor, your name and email address. If your work is not received by the due date, you may have an additional month to complete your paper (May 30, 2016) and you will be assessed a $120 late fee. Please save your Microsoft Word document as Yourlastname.AppliedTheology.W16.IP and submit it electronically to dmin.orlando@rts.edu. Your work will be forwarded to the professor. Non-credit (audit) students do not submit papers or reports.
Course Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following:

1. Reading Reports (20%)
2. Class Participation (20%)
3. Class Presentation (20%)
4. Integration Paper (40%)

Course Registration & Cancellation

- Students may register for the course prior to December 1, 2015.
- Enrolled credit students may register online at [https://selfservice.rts.edu/Home.aspx](https://selfservice.rts.edu/Home.aspx).
- Audit students may register by emailing the RTS-Orlando registrar, Lanny Conley, at iconley@rts.edu.

Course Readings

Required Reading:

Baxter, Richard
ISBN: 9780851511917

Bridges, Jerry
ISBN: 9781576835074

Lovelace, Richard
1979  *Dynamics of Spiritual Life, An Evangelical Theology of Renewal*, IVP Academic.
[Chapters 2-8]. (200 pp.). ISBN: 9780877846260


Packer, J.I.


ISBN: 9780830816507

Prior, Kenneth
ISBN: 9781857921090
Recommended Reading:

Alexander, Archibald

Baxter, Richard


Berkouwer, G.C.


Bonar, Horatius


Bridges, Jerry


Brooks, Thomas


Bunyan, John


Calvin, John

Chalmers, Thomas

Chappell, Bryan
1994 Christ Centered Preaching. Book House. (Read chapters 10, 11)

Charnock, Stephen

Childers, Steven L.

Curtis, Brent, and John Eldredge
1997 The Sacred Romance. Thomas Nelson.

Demarest, Bruce
1999 Satisfy Your Soul. NavPress.

Edwards, Jonathan

Eldredge, John

Ferguson, Sinclair B.


Fisher, Edward
The Marrow of Modern Divinity. Presbyterian Board of Pub. n.d.

Flavel, John
1963 The Mystery of Providence

Foster, Richard
1978 Celebration of Discipline

Foster, Richard, and Emilie Griffin

Gurnall, William

Hoekema, Anthony A.

Hughes, R. Kent
Keller, Timothy J.

Lewis, Peter

Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn

Londgaard, Kris

Luther, Martin
The Preface to Martin Luther’s Commentary on Galatians.

MacDonald, Gordon

Marshall, Walter

McGrath, Alister E.

Miller, John C. (Jack)

Miller, Rose Marie

Morris, Leon
1983  The Atonement: Its Meaning and Significance. IVP.

Murray, John

Newton, John
Owen, John

Packer, J.I.

Piper, John

Powlison, David

Ryken, Leland

Ryle, J.C.

Schaeffer, Francis A.

Stott, John R.W.
  1986 The Cross of Christ. Downers Grove: IL, InterVarsity. (Especially chapter 7—The Salvation of Sinners and the Conclusion—The Pervasive Influence of the Cross.)

Toon, Peter
  1990 Spiritual Companions: An Introduction to the Christian Classics, Baker.

Wallace, Ronald
  1957 Calvin’s Doctrine of the Word and Sacrament. Eerdmans.

Watson, Thomas

Welch, Edward T.
  1997 When People are Big and God is Small. Presbyterian & Reformed.

Whitney, Donald S.

Willard, Dallas

Winslow, Octavius
# Course Reading Report Forms

## Summary Sheet Guide

**READING REPORTS**

- Your Name
- Course Title & Number
- Professor/s
- Date Completed

List books read

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>#Pages Read</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Total Number Pages Read: ________

*Insert page break and follow with one-page report per book.*

## Guide for one-page reading reports

**Title of Book**

**Complete Bibliographic Reference**

**Overview**—Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach.

**Critique**—Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness.

**Application**—Offer some specific application to your own ministry—demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book.

**Best Quote**—Be sure to include the page number where the quote can be found.

*Insert page break and follow with each report.*
Course Objectives Related to Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 2DM802 Applied Theology: Spiritual Formation For Leaders  
Professor: Dr. Steven L. Childers  
Campus: RTS-Orlando

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>In order to measure the success of the DMin curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the DMin outcomes.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</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>
</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>Strong</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>Moderate</td>
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