

## **EM 502: The Educational Ministry of the Church**

**Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary**

**Fall 2009: Tuesday & Thursday 8:00-9:30AM**

S. Steve Kang: [sskang@gcts.edu](mailto:sskang@gcts.edu) or 978-646-4082

Office Hours: W 8:00-9:30AM & 10:45AM-12:15PM; T & R 12:30-2:00PM & 2-3PM till 10/30

To sign up, go to:

<http://docs.google.com/Doc?docid=0AenxFmO48HO9ZGRnaGtweHpfMmd2bTdtZ2Q4&hl=en>

### **Course Description:**

This course provides a broad overview of the critical issues concerning the teaching ministry of the church. Students will be challenged to develop a philosophy of educational ministry with a focus on Christian formation. (From the GCTS 2005-07 catalog)

This course will introduce students to the theory and practice of educational ministry, particularly as it is practiced within a Christian formational education framework. This course will proceed in a twofold process: First, the introduction to and analysis of the foundational issues in educational ministry. Second, the exploration of the issues related to conceptualizing, planning, and executing educational ministry where the whole church is considered as the curriculum for the formation of the people of God.

This course aims to encourage students to engage in meaningful praxis by providing ample opportunities for students to (1) explore and design educational experiences based on the theories explored in class, (2) engage in various experiential teaching-learning opportunities, and (3) facilitate meaningful educational experiences and reflect on those experiences. The class is intended to foster a sense of the “learning community” so as to simulate the possible vocational ministry settings faced by students upon graduation.

### **Course Texts:**

#### **Required:**

Dawn, Marva. *Is It a Lost Cause?: Having the Heart of God for the Church's Children*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Parrett, Gary and Steve Kang. *Teaching the Faith, Forming the Faithful* (IVP, due to be released in early October)

Pazmino, Robert. *Foundational Issues in Christian Education: An Introduction in Evangelical Perspective*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Webber, Robert. *Journey to Jesus: The Worship, Evangelism, and Nurture Mission of the Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.

### **Selected Bibliography:**

Astley, Jeff. *The Philosophy of Christian Religious Education*. Birmingham, AL: REP, 1994.

Astley, Jeff and Francis, Leslie J., eds. *Christian Perspectives on Faith Development: A Reader*. Leominster: Gracewing Fowler Wright; Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1992.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Critical Perspectives on Christian Education: A Reader on the Aims, Principles and Philosophy of Christian Education*. Leominster: Gracewing Fowler Wright, 1994.

Astley, Jeff; Francis, Leslie J. and Crowder, Colin, eds. *Theological Perspectives on Christian Formation: a Reader on Theology and Christian Education*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1996.

Belenky, Mary. et al. *Women's Ways of Knowing*. New York: Basic Books, 1986.

Boys, Mary. *Educating in Faith: Maps and Visions*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1989.

Brueggemann, Walter. *The Creative Word: Canon as a Model for Biblical Education*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1982.

Bunge, Marcia J. (ed.). *The Child in Christian Thought*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2001.

Burgess, Harold W. *Models of Religious Education: Theory and Practice in Historical and Contemporary Practice*. Nappanee, Ind.: Evangel Publishing House, 2001.

Bushnell, Horace. *Christian Nurture*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979.

- Carroll, Colleen. *The New Faithful: Why Young Adults Are Embracing Christian Orthodoxy*. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2002.
- Coles, Robert. *The Spiritual Life of Children*. London: HarperCollins, 1990.
- Dryden, Gordon and Jeannette Vos. *The Learning Revolution*. Torrance: The Learning Web, 1999.
- Dykstra, Craig. *Growing in the Life of Faith: Education and Christian practices*. Louisville: Geneva, 1999.
- Dykstra, Robert, Allan Hugh Cole, Jr., and Donald Capps. *Losers, Loners, And Rebels: The Spiritual Struggles of Boys*. Louisville: WJK, 2007.
- Eisner, Elliot W. *The Educational Imagination: On the Design and Evaluation of School Programs*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Macmillan, 1985.
- Elias, John L. *Conscientization and Deschooling!: Freire's and Illich's Proposals for Reshaping Society*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1976.
- Foster, Charles R. *Educating Congregations: The Future of Christian Education*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994.
- Fowler, James W. *Faithful Change: the personal and public challenges of postmodern life*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Stages of Faith: the psychology of human development and the quest for meaning*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1981.
- Francis, Leslie J. and Astley, Jeff, eds. *Children, Churches and Christian Learning*. London: SPCK, 2002
- Freire, Paulo. *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. New York: Continuum, 1970.
- Gardner, Howard. *Multiple Intelligences*. New York: Basic Books, 1993.
- Groome, Thomas. *Christian Religious Education: Sharing Our Story and Vision*. New York: Jossey-Bass, 1999.
- Groome, Thomas H. *Sharing Faith: A Comprehensive Approach to Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1991.
- Gibbs, Eugene, ed. *A Reader in Christian Education: Foundations and Basic Perspectives*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Guder, Darrell. *A Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Guttek, Gerald L. *Cultural Foundations of Education*. New York: Macmillan, 1991.
- Knight, George. *Issues & Alternatives in Educational Philosophy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Berrien Spring: AUP, 1998.
- Harmless, William. *Augustine and the Catechumenate*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1995.
- Harris, M. *Fashion Me a People*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.
- Harris, M. *Women and Teaching*. New York: Paulist Press, 1988.
- Hendricks, H. *Teaching to Change Lives*. Portland: Multnomah, 1987.
- Heschel, Abraham J. *Between God and Man*. New York: The Free Press, 1954.
- Joyce, Bruce, and Marsha Weil with Emily Calhoun. *Models of teaching*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2004.
- LeBar, Lois E. *Education That Is Christian*. Updated by James E. Plueddemann. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1989.
- LeFever, Marlene. *Learning Styles*. Colorado Springs: Cook, 1995.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Lines, Timothy Arthur. *Functional Images of the Religious Educator*. Birmingham, Ala.: REP, 1992.
- Little, Sara. *To Set One's Heart: Belief and Teaching in the Church*. Atlanta, Georgia: John Knox Press, 1983.
- Loder, James E. *The Transforming Moment*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Colorado Springs: Helmers & Howard, 1989.
- Maas, Robin and O'Donnell, Gabriel, eds. *Spiritual Traditions for the Contemporary Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1990.
- McAdams, D. *The Stories We Live By: Personal Myths and the Making of the Self*. New York: Morrow, 1993.
- Melchert, Charles F. *Wise Teaching: Biblical Wisdom and Educational Ministry*. Harrisburg, PA.: TPI, 1998.
- Miller, Patricia. *Theories of Developmental Psychology*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: Worth Publisher, 2001.
- Moore, Mary Elizabeth. *Teaching from the Heart: theology and educational method*. Harrisburg: TPI, 1998
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Teaching as a Sacramental Act*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2004.
- Nelson, C. Ellis. *How Faith Matures*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1989.
- Osmer, Richard. *A Teachable Spirit: Recovering the Teaching Office in the Church*. Louisville: W/JKP, 1990.
- Osmer, Richard R. and Schweitzer, Friedrich. *Religious Education between Modernization and Globalization: New Perspectives in the United States and Germany*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Palmer, Parker. J. *To Know as We Are Known: A Spirituality of Education*. New York: Harper & Row, 1983.

- \_\_\_\_\_. *Courage to Teach*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1997.
- Parks, Sharon. *The Critical Years: The Young Adult Search for a Faith to Live by*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1986
- Pazmiño, Robert W. *By What Authority Do We Teach?* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *God Our Teacher: Theological Basics in Christian Education*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Principles & Practices of Christian Education: An Evangelical Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Petersen, Michael L. *With All Your Mind: A Christian Philosophy of Education*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2001.
- Reed, Ronald & Tony Johnson. *Philosophical Documents in Education*. White Plains: Longman, 1996.
- Richards, Lawrence and Gary Bredfeldt. *Creative Bible Teaching, Revised Edition*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1998.
- Reynolds, Sherrie. *Learning Is a Verb: The Psychology of Teaching and Learning*. Scottsdale: Holcomb Hathaway, 2000.
- Seymour, Jack L. and D. E. Miller. *Contemporary Approaches to Christian Education*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1982.
- Seymour, Jack L., ed. *Mapping Christian Education: Approaches to Congregational Learning*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1997.
- The Heidelberg Catechism: A New Translation for the Twenty-first Century*. Barrett Lee, translator. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2007.
- Tye, Karen. *Your Calling as a Teacher*. St. Louis: Chalice, 2008.
- Vella, Jane. *Learning to Listen Learning to Teach*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1994.
- Westerhoff, John. *Will Our Children Have Faith?, Revised Edition*. Harrisburg: Morehouse, 2000.
- Westerhoff, John H. III and Edwards, O. C. Jr. *A Faithful Church: Issues in the History of Catechesis*. Wilton, CT: Morehouse-Barlow Co., 1981.
- Wiggins, George. and J. McTighe. *Understanding by Design*. Alexandria: ASCD, 1998.
- Wilhoit, James. *Christian Education: The Search for Meaning, 2<sup>nd</sup>*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ through Community*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.
- Wilhoit, James. and J. Dettoni, eds. *Nurture That Is Christian*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1995.
- Wimberley, Anne Streaty. *Soul Stories: African American Christian Education*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994.
- Wolterstorff, Nicholas P. *Educating for Responsible Action*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.

### **Course Expectations:**

- **Classroom Attendance and Participation (10%)**  
Students should be ready during each class period to (1) recall the major tenets of the readings and be able to reflect the readings theologically and ethically; (2) raise questions pertaining to the readings and brainstorm educational/ministerial implications on the readings; and (3) actively participate in classroom activities and promote and maintaining the learning community in class.
- **Clues to Intergenerational Educational Ministries Group Paper (10%)**  
In groups of three, students are to research two unique life issues facing *one* of generations (*Builders, Boomers, Busters, or Millennials*). Each group is then to: (1) describe two life issues that the generation faces (200 words); (2) postulate how those issues may become avenues through which the church can appropriately create teaching-learning opportunities for that generation (300 words); (3) discuss how that generation can uniquely contribute toward creating an intergenerationally appropriate teaching-learning atmosphere for all the generations in the church and beyond (300 words); and (4) prepare a one page handout for the classmates.  
**Due: October 22.**
- **Integrative Essay Examination Exercise (40%)**  
Students will take an active and participatory essay examination experience by: (1) submitting four substantial essay questions; (2) studying a list of edited essay questions with classmates; and (3) individually writing the essay examination in class. **December 3.**

- **Curriculum Designing for Educational Ministry Leaders Project (40%)**

Students are to *carefully* interact with *Teaching the Faith, Forming the Faith* and classroom materials/experiences by designing a detailed curriculum of four three-hour EM leaders training sessions, using the categories of the **purpose, proclamation, people, and practices** as the topics of each of the four sessions, respectively. The instruction to the project will be discussed in class. Students may send the paper electronically (Microsoft Word format only; the instructor will send a reply to your email confirming the receipt of your paper within the two days of receiving the paper.). The paper will be returned electronically with the instructor’s comments later. You may also hand in your paper as a hard copy to the instructor. *If you wish your commented paper to be returned to the address other than your campus mailbox, submit the paper in hard copy with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.* **Due: December 14 by 4PM.**

- **Late Papers will be docked a letter grade for each day they are late.**

- **All papers should be in Turabian\* format.**

\*See Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1996.

**Course Outline:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading &amp; Assignment</b>
<b>September 15 &amp; 16</b>	- Introduction to the Course - Purpose in Educational Ministry I	<i>Foundational Issues, Introduction, chs.1-2</i>
<b>September 22 &amp; 24</b>	- Purpose in Educational Ministry II	<i>Foundational Issues, Introduction, ch.3-4</i>
<b>September 29 &amp; October 1</b>	- Purpose in Educational Ministry III - Proclamation in Educational Ministry I	<i>Journey to Jesus, Introduction &amp; chs.1-11</i>
<b>October 6 &amp; 8</b>	- Proclamation in Educational Ministry II	<i>Journey to Jesus, chs.10-16</i>
<b>October 13 &amp; 15</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>
<b>October 20 &amp; 22</b>	- Proclamation in Educational Ministry III - People in Educational Ministry I	<b>Clues to Intergenerational Educational Ministries Paper (10/22)</b>
<b>October 27 &amp; 29</b>	- People in Educational Ministry II - <b>NO CLASS on 10/29</b>	<i>Is It a Lost Cause? Part I</i> <i>Foundational Issues, ch.5</i> <i>TFFF, pt.III</i>
<b>November 3 &amp; 5</b>	- People in Educational Ministry III -	<i>Is It a Lost Cause? Part II</i> <i>Foundational Issues, ch.6</i>
<b>November 10 &amp; 12</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>
<b>November 17 &amp; 19</b>	- Process in Educational Ministry I	<i>Foundational Issues, ch.7 &amp; Append. A &amp; B</i> <i>TFFF, pt.IV</i>
<b>November 24 &amp; 26</b>	- Process in Educational Ministry II - <b>NO CLASS ON 11/26</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>
<b>December 1 &amp; 3</b>	- Process in Educational Ministry III - <b>Integrative Essay Exam Exercise on 12/3</b>	<i>TFFF, pts. I &amp; II</i>
<b>December 8 &amp; 10</b>	- Process in Educational Ministry IV - Closure	
<b>December 14 Monday</b>	<b>Curriculum Designing for Educational Ministry Leaders Project due at 4pm</b>	