CH/EM/TH635 Catechesis: History, Theology, and Practice  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
Fall 2013: Monday 2-5PM  
S. Steve Kang: sskang@gcts.edu or 978-646-4082; and catechesis635@gmail.com (for all assignments)  
Gary Parrett: gary.parrett@gmail.com  
Office Hours:  
With Professor Kang:  
Drop-in hours (no appointment necessary): Tuesday 3-4PM; Thursday 3:00-3:30PM;  
Appointment only: Tuesday 1-3PM; Thursday 1:30-3:00PM; To sign up for an appointment, visit:  
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FLIPsF1FvZNgnKhOpLJW6dBtUj-ZFs5zjzVr7eVAXB8/edit  
To make an appointment with Professor Parrett, email him at the above email address.

Course Description:  
This course explores the ministry of instructing people in the essentials of Christian faith and practice. Attention is given to the biblical bases for, and historic practices of, catechesis, with the aim of encouraging contemporary applications of this ministry (from Catalogue).

Course Objectives:  
- To be rooted in precedents and rationale for catechetical ministry, both biblical and historical  
- To understand the biblical and theological content of historic catechesis  
- To strategize how to move toward contemporary practices of catechesis in congregational settings  
- To apply the student’s learning from theological education into congregational settings  
- To commit to forging a teaching-learning community in the church  
- To set for oneself an agenda for life-long learning as a catechist of the church

Required Texts:  
Pope John Paul II. “Catechesi Tradendae: On Catechesis in our Time”  

Recommended Texts:  

Helpful Resources:  

Also strongly recommended is familiarity with any catechetical resources from the student’s own denomination.

**Course Expectations:**

- **Classroom Attendance and Participation** (10%)  
  Attendance (in the full sense of the word) is required for all class sessions. Students should be ready during each class period to:
  1. recall the major tenets of the readings;
  2. raise questions pertaining to the readings;
  3. be able to reflect the readings personally & theologically;
  4. actively & wholeheartedly participate in classroom activities; and
  5. promote and maintain the learning & formational community in class.

- **Clues to Nurturing Catechumens Group Paper** (20%)  
  In groups of three, students are to research salient clues to nurturing an age-specific group (i.e., a stage in life-span). Each group is then to:
  1. describe any pertinent life issues that the age group faces (300 words);
  2. postulate how those issues may become avenues through which the church can appropriately create catechetical opportunities for that age group (400 words);
  3. discuss how the church (as an intergenerational teaching-learning community) can provide holistic catechetical opportunities for that age-group. Further, how the whole church may, in turn, benefit from such intergenerational endeavors (300 words); and
  4. send in the group paper electronically to catechesis635@gmail.com. Students’ last names should be in alphabetical order, with course title & the age group as the title—ex., “DurantKakaTebowCATYA.pdf” – .pdf format only by **October 17 Thursday at 10:59PM**.

All group papers will be posted in CAMS by 12AM on **October 18 Friday**. Students are responsible to download and read the papers before class on **October 21**.

- **Integrative Essay Examination Exercise** (30%)  
  Students will take an active role in participating in an essay examination experience by:
  1. carefully reading all the course texts;
  2. submitting three significant essay questions (one each from AC, GG, & TTFF). Send in the questions electronically to catechesis635@gmail.com with the student’s last name, the course title & “EssayQs” as the file title—ex., “RobinsonCATEssayQs.docx” - .docx or .doc format only, by **November 4 at 11:59PM**;
  3. studying the list of edited essay questions with classmates (which will be posted on CAMS by 10PM on November 5); and
  4. individually writing the essay examination in class on **November 18**.

- **Catechesis Project** (40%)  
  Students are to prepare either a strategic plan for catechizing in a particular contemporary setting and/or a contemporary catechism & guide for use in a particular setting. The completed project should be at least 10 pages (single-spaced) in length. The paper is to feature robust interaction with the required and recommended course texts, as well as with other resources appropriate to the topic (this interaction may be evidenced either in the text of the project write-up itself, or in footnotes, etc.).

  Note: Further details for each of the above assignments will be discussed in class, and full details regarding expectations for the project and the paper will be posted on CAMS.
(1) Send one single-spaced page précis or detailed outline (in full sentences) of the project, including three major sources (other than the course texts) electronically (with the student’s last name, the course title, & “Precis” – ex., “GonzalezCATPrecis.pdf” –.pdf format only) to catechesis635@gmail.com by 10:59PM on December 5 Thursday.

(2) All the précises will be posted in CAMS by 12AM on December 6 Friday, and students are responsible to download and read the papers before the class on December 9.

(3) Send the final project electronically (with the student’s last name, the course title, & “Proj – ex., “GonzalezCATProject.pdf” –.pdf format only) to catechesis635@gmail.com by 11:59pm on December 13 Friday.

- All citations (footnotes) should be in Turabian format. See Turabian, Kate L. A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 6th Edition. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1996 or any online help on the formatting.
- Please observe the page limit.
- Late Papers will be docked a letter grade for each day they are late. No exceptions.

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<tr>
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<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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| 9/9 | - Course Introduction  
- A Biblical Understanding of Catechesis I | |
| S2 | 9/16 | - A Biblical Understanding of Catechesis II  
- Catechesis in Church History I | AC, chs.1-2;  
GG, Introduction, chs.1-2;  
TFFF, ch.3 |
| S3 | 9/23 | - Catechesis in Church History II | AC, ch.3  
GG, ch.3 |
| S4 | 9/30 | - Catechesis Today: Its Aims – T-H-E-G-O-S-P-E-L | AC, chs.4-6  
TFFF, chs.1-2 |
| S5 | 10/7 | - Catechesis Today: Its Content | AC, chs.7-9;  
GG, chs.4-5;  
TFFF, chs.4-5 |
| 10/14 | Reading Week 1: No Class | TFFF, chs.6-9  
Clues to Nurturing Catechumens Group Paper Due on October 17 (Thur) at 10:59PM |
| S6 | 10/21 | - Nurturing Catechumens | Clues to Nurturing Catechumens Group Papers (reading);  
GG, chs.6-7 |
| S7 | 10/28 | - Practice of Catechesis I: Designing | GG, chs.8-10;  
TFFF, chs.10-14 |
| S8 | 11/4 | - Practice of Catechesis II: Teaching & Learning Experience | 3 Essay Questions Due on November 4 at 11:59PM |
| 11/11 | Reading Week 2: No Class | |
| S9 | 11/18 | - Essay Examination Exercise  
- (Guest presenter: Brian Dietz) | Essay Examination Exercise |
| 11/25 | Thanksgiving Week: No Class | |
| S10 | 12/2 | - Nurturing Catechists for the Catechetical Community | Précis/Outline for Catechesis Project Due on December 5 (Thur) at 10:59PM  
FOR DECEMBER GRADUATES: Catechesis Project Due on December 6 at 4PM |
| S11 | 12/9 | - Catechesis Project Sharing  
- Closure | Précises/Outlines for Catechesis Project (Reading) |
| 12/13 Friday | | Catechesis Project Due at 11:59PM |