CE 4484
Introduction to Christian Education

Bradley C. Thompson, PhD

Department of Church Ministries

Spring 2014 - 15
Introduction to Christian Education  CE 4484

Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary
Bradley C. Thompson, PhD
Department of Church Ministries

Spring 2014 – 15
Tuesday – Thursday, 8:00 – 8:50 a.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
An integrated study of the development of Christian education. Consideration is given to the foundations of Christian education, the outstanding patterns of education, the teaching/learning process, and the philosophy and methodology of Christian education praxis within the context of a local church. Three hours.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND COURSE FORMAT
The course is designed to be highly interactive in the exploration of the philosophy, administrative principles, and practical implementation of a Christian Education ministry. The student involved in this discovery learning process should be able to:

A. Identify biblical, theological, and philosophical concepts for Christian education, and critique educational practices from a Biblical worldview.
B. Understand and apply principles and practices of basic Christian Education ministry.
C. Understand the basic structure of a Sunday School organization, including the basic competencies of teaching, recruiting, motivating, and training workers in a Christian Education ministry.
D. Understand the needs of age groups within a Christian Education ministry.
E. Develop biblical, theological, and philosophical ideas from which a Christian Education ministry.
F. Identify different learning styles within age groups of a Christian Education ministry.
G. Fully understand the teaching – learning process within a Christian Education ministry.

The course is designed as a series of learning modules. Instructional modules will include simulations, case studies, discussion groups, group projects and papers. The course will be highly interactive, and necessitates that all participants engage in dialogue with the issues and concerns under discussion.

COURSE READING
The following texts are required reading for class discussion and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise indicated.


**LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND EVALUATION**

The following assignments totaling 1000 points are to be completed as described below by the dates outlined in the Course Schedule.

**Assignment Formatting**

- Unless otherwise noted, type all assignments double-spaced with 1 inch margins
- Use Times New Roman 12 point font
- Unless otherwise noted, a cover page and/or report cover is not necessary
- Staple assignment pages together as necessary or as required
- Refer to the *MABTS Department of Christian Education Style Manual*

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

A. *Class attendance*. Attendance is a necessity in the learning process. In addition, the classroom learning experience is enhanced by attendance and participation. According to seminary policy, students are not allowed to accumulate more than 9 excused absences and still receive credit for a course. An excused absence is defined in the MABTS catalog as “a personal or family illness, death in the family, or death or emergency on the church field which requires the student’s presence.” It is the responsibility of students to submit a written excuse to the professor on the day they return to class. Otherwise, the absence will be counted as unexcused. In addition to full absences, being tardy (entering the room after the bell has rung) counts as 1/3 of an absence; leaving class early without permission likewise counts as 1/3 of an absence; studying for other classes during the class period will be counted as a full absence. Obviously, students are responsible for all class notes, handouts, or assignments given during any absence.

**YOU WILL EARN A FINAL GRADE OF “F” IF YOU MISS MORE THAN 9 CLASS SESSIONS.**

B. *Reading* (250 points total). Read all text as assigned. 10 daily reading quizzes worth 25 points each will be given during the term and will cover concepts from the textbooks and class discussions.

C. *Examinations* (500 points total). There will be two major tests: a mid-term examination worth 250 points and a final examination worth 250 points. The tests will cover all material discussed in class and the assigned reading in the text.
D. Christian Education Portfolio (250 points total). Develop a portfolio on a Christian Education Ministry that includes:

- Christian Education Planning Calendar 50 points
- Christian Education Budget Spreadsheet 50 points
- Christian Education Staffing Chart 50 points
- Educational Assessment 100 points

This project is due at the beginning of class on the day of the final exam. Late submissions (or any portion thereof) will be assessed 10 points per day, including weekends.

**GRADING SCALE**

Your final grade for this course will be determined by adding up the total number of points on all exams and the research paper and basing them on the following scale:

- 985-1,000 points = A+
- 925-944 points = B+
- 835-864 points = C+
- 745-764 points = D+
- Below 700 points = F

- 965-984 points = A
- 895-924 points = B
- 805-834 points = C
- 715-744 points = D
- Below 700 points = F

The professor for this class will be available to speak to students by e-mail, telephone or through personal appointment made through the Executive Vice President’s office (751-3032). The professor reserves the right to make modifications in the class syllabus or schedule as necessary.
READING SCHEDULE

Week 1

Tuesday, January 20  Anthony, 1 – 20
Wednesday, January 21 Anthony, 21 – 40
Thursday, January 22 Anthony, 41 – 60  Reading Quiz Sample

Week 2

Tuesday, January 27  Anthony, 61 – 80
Wednesday, January 28 Anthony, 81 – 100
Thursday, January 29 Anthony, 101 – 120  Reading Quiz 1

Week 3

Tuesday, February 3  Anthony, 120 – 140
Wednesday, February 4 Anthony, 141 – 160
Thursday, February 5 Anthony, 161 – 180  Reading Quiz 2

Week 4

Tuesday, February 10 Anthony, 181 – 200
Wednesday, February 11 Anthony, 201 – 220
Thursday, February 12 Anthony, 221 – 240  Reading Quiz 3

Week 5

Tuesday, February 17 Anthony, 241 – 260
Wednesday, February 18 Anthony, 261 – 289
Thursday, February 19 Powers, 1 – 15  Reading Quiz 4

Week 6

Tuesday, February 24 Powers, 16 – 30
Wednesday, February 25 Powers, 31 – 45
Thursday, February 26 Powers, 46 – 60  Reading Quiz 5

Week 7

Tuesday, March 3  Powers, 61 – 75
Wednesday, March 4  Powers, 76 – 90
Thursday, March 5  Powers, 91 – 105  Reading Quiz 6

SPRING BREAK – MARCH 6 – 23
### Week 8

- **Tuesday, March 24**  
  *Powers*, 105 – 120
- **Wednesday, March 25**  
  *Powers*, 121 – 135
- **Thursday, March 26**  
  *Powers*, 136 – 150  
  Reading Quiz 7

### Week 9

- **Tuesday, March 31**  
  *Powers*, 151 – 165
- **Wednesday, April 1**  
  *Powers*, 166 – 180
- **Thursday, April 2**  
  *Powers*, 181 – 195  
  Reading Quiz 8

### Week 10

- **Tuesday, April 7**  
  *Powers*, 196 – 210
- **Wednesday, April 8**  
  *Powers*, 211 – 225
- **Thursday, April 9**  
  *Powers*, 226 – 240  
  Reading Quiz 9

### Week 11

- **Tuesday, April 14**  
  *Powers*, 241 – 255
- **Wednesday, April 15**  
  *Powers*, 256 – 270
- **Thursday, April 16**  
  *Powers*, 271 – 285  
  Reading Quiz 10

### Week 12

- **Tuesday, April 21**  
  *Powers*, 286 – 300
- **Wednesday, April 22**  
  *Powers*, 301 – 311
- **Thursday, April 23**

### Week 13

- **Monday, April 27**  
  *Worship Conference*
- **Tuesday, April 28**  
  *Worship Conference*
- **Wednesday, April 29**  
  *Worship Conference*
- **Thursday, April 30**  
  *Worship Conference*

### Week 14

- **Tuesday, May 5**
- **Wednesday, May 6**
- **Thursday, May 7**
Week 15

Tuesday, May 12
Wednesday, May 13
Thursday, May 14

Week 16

Tuesday, May 19
Final Examinations
Wednesday, May 20
Final Examinations
CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1
Tuesday, January 20  Syllabus Overview, Class Norms
Wednesday, January 21  Historical Foundations, Part 1
Thursday, January 22  Historical Foundations, Part 2

Week 2
Tuesday, January 27  Philosophical Foundations
Wednesday, January 28  Theological Foundations
Thursday, January 29  Life Span Development: Erik Erikson, Daniel Levinson, Part 1

Week 3
Tuesday, February 3  Life Span Development: Erik Erikson, Daniel Levinson, Part 2
Wednesday, February 4  Moral Development: Lawrence Kohlberg
Thursday, February 5  Faith Development: James Fowler

Week 4
Tuesday, February 10  Cognitive Development: Jean Piaget
Wednesday, February 11  Spiritual Formation, Part 1
Thursday, February 12  Spiritual Formation, Part 2

Week 5
Tuesday, February 17  Learning Theory 1
Wednesday, February 18  Learning Theory 2
Thursday, February 19  Personality Theory 1: Johari Window, DISC

Week 6
Tuesday, February 24  Teaching for Results, Part 1
Wednesday, February 25  Teaching for Results, Part 2
Thursday, February 26  Thinking Preference

Week 7
Tuesday, March 3  Organizational Models for Christian Education
Wednesday, March 4  Program Planning
Thursday, March 5  Recruiting, Training, Motivating Workers

SPRING BREAK – MARCH 6 – 23
Week 8

Tuesday, March 24  Conflict Management in Christian Education, Part 1
Wednesday, March 25  Team Exercise in Conflict Management – Upward vs. Onward
Thursday, March 26  Preschool Christian Education

Week 9

Tuesday, March 31  Children’s Christian Education
Wednesday, April 1  Youth Christian Education
Thursday, April 2  Adult Christian Education

Week 10

Tuesday, April 7  Discipleship Training in Christian Education
Wednesday, April 8  Sunday School Basics: Flake’s Formula
Thursday, April 9  The Growth Spiral, Part 1

Week 11

Tuesday, April 14  The Growth Spiral, Part 2
Wednesday, April 15  New Member/Discovery Class
Thursday, April 16  Curriculum

Week 12

Tuesday, April 21  Budgeting in Christian Education
Wednesday, April 22  Calendaring in Christian Education
Thursday, April 23  Calendaring in Christian Education

Week 13

Monday, April 27  Worship Conference
Tuesday, April 28  Worship Conference
Wednesday, April 29  Worship Conference
Thursday, April 30  Leadership Theory 1

Week 14

Tuesday, May 5  Leadership Theory 2
Wednesday, May 6  Legal Issues in Christian Education
Thursday, May 7  Christian Education in Church Plants
### Week 15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 12</td>
<td>Calling Church Staff, 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 13</td>
<td>Calling Church Staff, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 14</td>
<td>Terminating Church Staff, 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Week 16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 19</td>
<td>Final Examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 20</td>
<td>Final Examinations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Christian Education Portfolio - 250 points

Develop a Christian Education portfolio that includes:

- **Christian Education Planning Calendar (50 points)**
  
  Include 50 events on your calendar that would be included in a normal church year (High Attendance Days, training events, fellowship events, outreach events, inreach events, promotion, etc...)

- **Christian Education Budget Spreadsheet (50 points)**
  
  Include a comprehensive budget with at least ten first level line items (Training, curriculum, supplies, childcare, transportation, etc...). Larger budgets should include sub-levels.

- **Christian Education Staffing Chart (50 points)**
  
  Smaller and medium churches- include all Christian Education personnel and vocational staff.
  Large and mega churches- include age division personnel.
  Create a flow chart to identify all staff, leaders, and workers in a Christian Education organization.

- **Educational Assessment (50 points)**
  
  Complete a Growth Spiral and Space Study for your church and write a narrative to demonstrate your findings.
### Introduction to Christian Education Portfolio Rubric

Your portfolio counts for 25 percent of your grade (250 points) and is graded according to the criteria below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Excellent (100 points)</th>
<th>Good (75 points)</th>
<th>Average (50 points)</th>
<th>Poor (25 points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church assessment</strong></td>
<td>All parts of the assessment are completed in a comprehensive manner: Space study,</td>
<td>3 of 4 parts of the assessment are completed in a comprehensive manner.</td>
<td>2 of 4 parts of the assessment are completed in a comprehensive manner.</td>
<td>1 of 4 parts of the assessment are completed in a comprehensive manner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(100 points possible)</td>
<td>Growth Spiral, Recommendations for future growth, neatly displayed in a team binder.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Budget Spreadsheet</strong></td>
<td>All parts of the budget spreadsheet are completed in a comprehensive manner: 10 line</td>
<td>3 of 4 parts of the budget spreadsheet are completed in a comprehensive manner</td>
<td>2 of 3 parts of the budget spreadsheet are completed in a comprehensive manner.</td>
<td>1 of 4 parts of the budget spreadsheet are completed in a comprehensive manner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(50 points possible)</td>
<td>items in education budget, 10 items listed on budget list, descriptions given for</td>
<td>and reflect</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>each line item, month given when budget amount is needed.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry Calendar</strong></td>
<td>All parts of the ministry calendar are completed in a comprehensive manner: 50</td>
<td>2 of 3 parts of the ministry calendar are completed in a comprehensive manner.</td>
<td>1 of 3 parts of the ministry calendar are completed in a comprehensive manner.</td>
<td>One guideline is followed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(50 points possible)</td>
<td>separate ministry events in education calendar, 12 calendars in portfolio, event</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>list by month accompanies calendar</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organizational Chart</strong></td>
<td>All parts of the Organizational chart are completed in a comprehensive manner:</td>
<td>2 of 3 parts of the organizational diagram are completed in a comprehensive</td>
<td>1 of 3 parts of the organizational diagram are completed in a comprehensive</td>
<td>One guideline is followed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(50 points possible)</td>
<td>Organizational diagram is: Computer generated, demonstrates vocational and lay</td>
<td>manner.</td>
<td>manner.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>leaders in ministry, provides ministry descriptions</td>
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