Instructor
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Course Description
This course is an introduction to the educational ministry of the church. Special attention will be given to five broad topics: the biblical, theological and philosophical foundations of education; emerging neuroscience foundations of the teaching/learning process; responding to diverse needs of learners in the Church; the spirituality within a teaching ministry; and design of the Christian education ministries within the Church.

Texts
Required Course Text:


PLEASE NOTE: The instructor will provide the students with many handouts that give samples of best teaching practices in Christian education.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, the student will:
1. Articulate a biblical theology of Christian education in the local church.
2. Articulate a philosophy and spirituality of Christian education.
3. Compare and contrast Christian educational curriculum to biblical theology and best teaching practices.
4. Create a curriculum design for one learner group within the church or parachurch for one year.
5. Choose from an array of teaching methods to support the biblical and philosophical beliefs for a Christian education program in a local church or parachurch group.

Course Contents
1. Biblical Theology of Christian Education
   * What is the role of the family as presented in the Old Testament? What is the biblical model of teaching presented by Jesus, the Master Teacher?
2. History of Christian Education
* What philosophy about learners and teaching have been approached by the Church across history? What were the assets and liabilities of each in relation to content, understanding of learners, teaching practices and outcomes?

3. Methods of Christian Education Delivery
* What are the strengths and weaknesses of the various Christian Education delivery systems that have been, are being used? What is an effective evaluation system of Christian education materials?

4. Best Teaching Practices
What are emerging methods of teaching and learning with particular attention to emerging brain research understandings about learning?

5. Christian Education Design and Implementation
What elements of organization, space, time, format, content, learner needs, ministers and teaching practices will best serve diverse learners in the church today?

Course Assignments


2. Great Teacher “Interview.”
   20 points
   Due: First Day of Class
   Prior to class, choose a “missionary” from the following list to interview. The teacher should meet two criteria: Have effective student learning outcomes (learners are transformed by the teaching) and long-term relationships with learners (some learners feel compelled to keep in contact with the teacher over time and distance). Present your findings in a two-page paper (double spaced, 1” margins, Times New Roman 12 font) and a brief presentation to the rest of the class. Presentation should be no more than 15 minutes. PowerPoint presentations are permissible but not required.
   A. Interview a great teacher in the church today. You may even conduct this by e-mail if you choose a “teacher” from a long distance.
   B. Read a book about a great teacher in the church, such as Harriet Mears or XXXX and write the paper based upon your understanding of his or her teaching methods. Confirm your choice by e-mail with the instructor prior to beginning the assignment reading!

Questions for the interview are provided as a guideline for your presentation:
* What triggering incident or understanding led you to decide to teach and to teach within the church?
* Do you have a theology or spirituality of teaching/learning that you rely upon for your ministry?
* What are the needs of learners that you have attempted to reach?
* What teaching practices or activities that you use do you sense are most effective in reaching learners within the church?
* What are some of the pieces of your curriculum philosophy for Christian education? Other ways of saying this are, what principles or values do you hold for teaching in Christian education? Or, what matters most to you about teaching in the church?
* If you could convey ONE message to your learners, what would that be?

NOTE: Use these question/theme areas as sub-headings of your paper and write about one paragraph on each topic, or list bullet points.

Assignment 2: Textbook Reviews
10 points each or 20 points total
Due: First Day of Class
Write ONE review on each of the TWO books required for this course. Each review shall be a one-page (1” margins, double-space, 12-point Times New Roman font) summary of the chapter or article by answering these three questions:
A. What is the author’s main point (one - three sentences)?
B. What in your experience and other reading supports or refutes the author’s main point? (one paragraph—3-5 sentences)
C. How can you use this information in Christian education?

Assignment 3: Devotional
Points: 10
Due: In class—Sign up ahead of time for the day and time
Prepare a devotional to share with the class based upon your Great Teacher interview and a relevant scripture. The devotional should be no more than 10 minutes and include reflection on the part of the listeners. This is a pass/fail assignment.

Assignment 4: Curriculum Evaluation
Points: 10
Due: Last day of class session (August 20th)
In class, we will develop a curriculum evaluation chart and you will be expected to evaluate at least 3 curriculums on teaching to the learner group of most interest to you. For example, if you choose to be a children’s pastor, you will evaluate children’s curricula. The survey will be introduced in class and you will be expected to complete it during free time while at the class.

Assignment 5: Christian Education Philosophy
Points: 20
Due: Draft in class; Final with Curriculum Design paper
Write a one page personal statement of your Christian education philosophy: Include biblical theology and spirituality as well as best teaching practices. We will begin this discussion in class and you will be expected to draft the statement before the in-class period ends. A final copy will be submitted with your final project.

Assignment 6. Christian Education Program Design
Points: 50
Due: Within 30 days of the final class (September 20, 2010)
Develop a Christian educational program for one learner group within your ministry setting to cover an entire program year. You will be expected to identify the learner group and include philosophy, a learner needs survey, a curriculum outline of topics and the outline for three specific teaching activities (lessons). You will describe a teacher recruitment campaign and teacher training plan that includes a four-hour orientation and monthly small group activities. Extra credit (10 points) will be given to program designs that include multi-media concepts.

TOTAL POINTS: 130
A = 130 – 117 points
B = 116 – 104
C = 103 - 91
D = 90 - 78
F = 77 and below