

Church Education and Discipleship – PT411/711

Spring Semester, 2009

Tues., 7:50–9:30 PM

I. Instructor

Rev. Eric D. Bristley, Th.M.

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II. Course description

An overview of the Biblical principles of discipleship with in the context of the local church's ministry, including theological foundations, goals, methods, curriculum, organization, leadership and evaluation of the teaching/learning process for various settings and age groups.

Two credit hours

III. Required Texts

The Teaching Ministry of the Church by Daryl Eldridge (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995).

Making Kingdom Disciples by Charles H. Dunahoo (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2005).

Rediscovering Catechism by Donald Van Dyken (Presbyterian & Reformed, 2000)

Recommended Reading

Teaching for Results by Findley B. Edge (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995)

The Seven Laws of the Learner by Bruce Wilkinson (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1992)

Educational Ministry of a Church by Charles A. Tidwell (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996)

IV. Course Requirements

- A. **Term Paper:** Students will be required to write a term paper on a significant aspect of Christian education, a detailed book review of a significant work on the subject, or develop a one year curriculum program. Topics need to be approved by the Midterm exam. Terms papers are due at the final exam and will count as 30 percent of the student's grade.
- B. **Tests:** There will be a total of two examinations in this course: a Mid-Term Exam and a Final Exam. These examinations will cover the lecture material and reading assignments. Each exam will count as 35 percent of the student's grade.
- C. **Readings:** Students are expected to do the assigned readings. Students will also be asked to affirm on each exam that they have read all assignments to date. Students who cannot make such an affirmation will receive a 15 percent reduction of grade on the exam.
- D. **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes. In the event of unavoidable absence, the student should seek excuse from the instructor beforehand. Two excused absences are permitted without a reduction in grade. Recipients of Mission to the City Scholarships with more than two unexcused absences will be billed full cost for the course (seminary policy).

Date		Lecture & Discussion	Readings
Jan.	20	1. Biblical-Theological Foundation of Christian Education (CE). Trinitarian Approach, God Our Teacher in the OT and NT; Christ, the Master Teacher; His Methods and Example	Eldridge, 1-2 Dunahoo, 1
	27	2. The Holy Spirit and Effective Teaching. Work in the Teacher and the Student, Teaching-Learning Process, Illumination, Transformation, Spiritual gifts (John 15-16)	Eldridge, 3 Dunahoo, 2
Feb.	3	3. Christian Theology of Education. Distinctively Christian and biblical Worldview (Ontology, Epistemology, and Ethics): God, Creation, Man; its implications for education	Dunahoo, 3-5
	10	4. The Bible in the Curriculum. Central use of the Bible, Evaluating Curriculum, Developing Curriculum Materials, Resources, Bible facts, stories, practical application, projects, geography, history	Eldridge, 4, 16 Dunahoo, 6
	17	5. History and Trends of Christian Education. History of Christian Education, Family, Church, Christian Schools, Home Schooling, Camping, Bible Institutes & Colleges, Seminaries, Missions, Christian Education Committees	Eldridge, 5, 7, 9
	24	6. Administration of Christian Education. The role and agency of the Church in CE, Leadership of Pastor and Elders, Developing, Organizing, Administering, Supervising, and Evaluating a CE Program, Selecting and Training Teachers, Committee of Education	Eldridge, 6, 8, 18
Mar.	3	No Class MID-TERM EXAM (Take home, due next class)	Topics Approved
	10	7. Making Christian Disciples. The Goal of Christian Education: Glorify and Enjoy God, Trust in Christ, Reasoning according to a Biblical Worldview, Love and Serve God and Our Neighbor, Spiritual Growth, Conformed to Christ	Eldridge, 10-11 Dunahoo, 7
	17	8. The Christian Teacher. Called by God, responsibility and qualifications, equipped and prepared by God, Servant attitude, Training, Skilled in the Word, Applying the Word, love for the church and God's people	Dunahoo, 8 Van Dyken, 1-5
	24	9. The Art of Christian Teaching. Aims and objectives, methods, communication skills, Lesson Planning, studying the Bible, preparation and planning, authority, creativity, motivating students, methods & techniques, relationship, love, discipline, flexibility	Dunahoo, 9 Van Dyken, 6-10
	31	10. Teaching Christian Doctrine by Catechizing. history of catechizing, teaching the truth and the knowledge of god, biblical basis: catechesis in scripture, methods, covenant youth, confirmation, confession of faith	Dunahoo, 10 Eldridge, 12-14
Apr.	7	No Class – Easter Break	
	14	11. Teaching Young Children, Youth and Teenagers. understanding students, growth and development, sin, regeneration, evangelism, youth groups, activities, clubs, Sunday school, camping, VBS, etc.	Dunahoo, 11 Van Dyken, 11-17
	21	12. Teaching Adults & Teacher Training. Developing Christian maturity, Bible studies, college students, couples, singles, elderly, Sunday school, Christian literature, conferences & seminars, etc.	Dunahoo, 12 Eldridge, 15-17
	28	No Class – Finalize Papers and Prepare for Exam	
May	5	TAKE FINAL EXAM & PAPERS DUE	