REED 70970/80970- Special Topics in Religious Education: Teaching the Bible
(3 semester hours)
(Fall 2015)

Instructor: Russell Dalton

Prerequisites: None

Description of Content:
The Bible is often used in the Christian education of the church without much reflection on how we are using the Bible. Students in this course will examine and explore a variety of approaches to the interpretation and the authority of the Bible, their implications for how we use the Bible in the church, and be introduced to various methods and models for teaching the Bible in a variety of settings.

Purpose of the course:
Students will be able to articulate a theory of interpretation of the Bible and of the authority of the Bible. They will be able to apply their theory by teaching the Bible in class and in a Bible study setting or Sunday School setting and writing a papers reflecting on those experiences.

Class Procedures:
Lectures, discussions and course activities led by the professor, an extended in-class role-playing activity, in-class Bible studies taught by students in class, and an outside of class lesson taught by students in a church setting.

Requirements:
Attendance and informed, prepared participation in class sessions

1. Write an 8-10 page paper surveying various theories of the interpretation, meaning and authority of the Bible, making the case for your own approach, and suggest some implications this approach has for how you will use the Bible in your educational ministry making references to course texts and classroom content.

2. Choose a method of teaching the Bible based on a text approved by the professor. Lead our class in a Bible study or bible lesson using that model and write a 6-8 page paper on the model and how you adapted it, reflecting on issues that will be discussed in class sessions and course texts. Student grades on this assignment shall be based on both the Bible study in class and the paper.

3. Lead a Bible study or Sunday School class session that is teaching the Bible outside of class (usually in a church setting). Write a 10-12 page paper that provides a rationale for your approach to using the Bible, describe the teaching experience, and reflect on that experience discussing issues of meaning, authority, learners, and methodology with reference to course texts and classroom content.

*Note: Advance Degree students taking the course at the 80970 level will also write an 8 page reflection paper on how they have used the Bible in their past ministry and what
changes, if any, they plan to make in how they use the Bible in the future, making connections to course texts and other content.

**Required Texts:**


**Note: After we meet together in class, each student will also be required to read an additional text based on the model of teaching the Bible they choose for assignment # 2.**

**Recommended Texts:**


*Students will be required to read four brief essays included in the back matter. This is an excellent study Bible to own.


**Grading procedures:**

Approach to the Bible paper 33 1/3 %
In class lesson and reflection paper 33 1/3 %
Outside of class lesson paper 33 1/3%

**Note: Some specifics of this course may change depending upon the size of the class and the goals and background of the students in the course.**