

REED 65003 Religious Education in Ministry  
**(NOTE: Formerly titled: The Church's Educational Ministry)**  
(3 semester hours)  
(Fall 2019)

Instructor: Russell Dalton

Prerequisites: CHTH 60003: Introduction to Christian Theology I

Instructor: Russell Dalton

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Description of Content:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a broad understanding of Religious Education that goes beyond the Sunday School classroom. How are diverse disciples being formed in faith communities and other community contexts in intentional and unintentional and explicit and implicit ways? What is being learned about who God is, the nature of faith, and how we are to live through the ways in which the church or community organization carries out its ministries in its own ecclesial and community contexts? In light of our own contexts, what educational methods might be seen as inclusive, compassionate, just, and effective?

Students will survey the variety of ways in which ministries engage in religious education, explore the variety of needs and learning styles people have, be introduced to theories of religious education and practical theological integration, and reflect on a lesson they will teach in their own community of faith or other communal setting.

Class Procedures:

Lectures, small group discussion, classroom activities, and outside of class teaching

Requirements:

Attendance and informed, prepared participation in class. Failure to complete all three assignments will result in failure of the course.

Assignments:

1. Provide a 14-18 page evaluation of one church's overall educational program. Describe and evaluate the programs based on course content including a) the church's primary approach to Christian education, b) its purpose (implied or explicit), c) explicit, implicit, or null curriculum, d) context, e) the five curricular forms/tasks of the church, making reference to assigned texts and other course content.
2. Teach or facilitate a religious education event (such as teaching a class) in a church or community context and reflect on it with reference to the course content in a 14-18 page paper. Schedule an opportunity to teach a lesson as soon as possible. Analyze the educational event in terms of it's a) content, b) the

participants (theological worlds, multiple intelligences, etc.) and c) your process and method making reference to texts and other course content.

3. One take-home comprehensive final exam.

Required Texts:

1. Kenneth H. Hill, *Religious Education in the African American Tradition: A Comprehensive Introduction* (Chalice Press, 2007) ISBN 0827208200. \$26.99
2. Karen B. Tye, *Basics of Christian Education* (Chalice Press, 2000) ISBN 0827202296. \$18.99
3. Thomas H. Groome, *Will There Be Faith?* (Harper One, 2011) ISBN 978-0-06-203728-2. \$15.99
4. Robert W. Pazmino, *Latin American Journey: Insights for Christian Education in North America* (Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2002) ISBN 1-59244-034-7 \$23.00
5. W. Paul Jones, *Theological Worlds: Understanding the Alternative Rhythms of Christian Belief* (Abingdon, 1989) 0687414709 \$23.50
6. Delia Halverson, *Ready, Set, Teach! Training and Supporting Volunteers in Christian Education.* (Abingdon, 2010) ISBN: 1426709374 Retail \$15.99

Recommended Texts:

1. Harris, Maria, *Fashion Me a People: Curriculum in the Church*, (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989) ISBN 0664240526 \$24.95
2. Anne E. Streaty Wimberly & Evelyn L. Parker, ed., *In Search of Wisdom: Faith Formation in the Black Church.* (Abingdon, 2002). ISBN 0687067006 \$20.00
3. Everist, Norma Cook, *The Church As Learning Community: A Comprehensive Guide to Christian Education* (Abingdon, 2002) ISBN 0687045002 \$29.50
4. *The Cambridge Dictionary of Theology*, ed. Ian McFarland, et al. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011). ISBN-13: 9781107414969. \$40.97 (NOTE: This book has been required for the Introduction to Christian Theology course. It is recommended that you have access to this book or a similar theology resource.)

Grading procedures:

Analysis of Congregation's over all Educational Ministry paper 33.3 %  
Teaching experience and reflection paper 33.3 %  
Take Home Exam 33.3 %

Positive consideration is given for attendance and prepared, informed participation. Students must complete and pass all three assignments in order to pass the course.

Note: This is a tentative course plan. Some details of this course design may be changed.