

REED 60003 Religious Education in Ministry
(NOTE: Formerly titled: The Church's Educational Ministry)
(3 semester hours)
Fall 2021

Prerequisites: None

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 traditional classroom instruction such as in a Sunday School. How are diverse disciples being formed in faith communities in intentional and unintentional and explicit and implicit ways? What is being learned about who God is, what the community of faith is all about, and how we are to live through the ways in which a 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 inclusive, compassionate, just, and effective? Students will survey the ways in which a church engages in Religious Education, a variety of perspectives on Religious Education, explore the diverse learning needs and learning styles of those who connect with the church, be introduced to theories of Religious Education, and reflect on a religious education experience that they will each lead or facilitate.

Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze a church's overall educational ministry through a paper in which they analyze a congregation through several religious education conceptual tools. They will demonstrate the ability to analyze, evaluate and improve lessons through a written analysis of a lesson plan. Finally, they will demonstrate the ability to apply religious education theory to their own vision for educational ministry.

Class Procedures:

This course will include lectures, small group discussion, classroom activities, and outside of class teaching and self-evaluation. Whether the course ends up being taught on campus or remotely, we will make use of the course website.

Requirements:

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

Assignments:

1. "What is being learned through the whole life of your congregation?" paper.
Students will submit an 8-11-page paper. The focus for this paper is one what is being learned through aspects of church outside of the classroom about who God is, what the community of faith should be, and how we are to live out the life of faith. More detailed instructions for the assignment will be provided with the syllabus. Papers will cite course texts.

2. “Lesson Plan Analysis” paper. Students will teach a lesson or facilitate a religious education event in a church or community context and reflect on it with reference to the course texts and class content in a 8-11 page paper. Students should schedule an opportunity to teach a lesson as soon as possible. Analyze the educational event in terms of its goals, use of the Bible, participants (in terms of theological worlds, multiple intelligences, etc.) and process and method, making reference to texts and other course content. More detailed instructions for the assignment will be provided with the syllabus. Papers will cite course texts.

3. “Your educational ministry vision” and lesson paper. Students will be able to work on this paper throughout the semester. Write a 9-12 page paper presenting your hopes and vision for the educational ministry of your future community of faith or ministry and a lesson outline using a model introduced in the class. Students will address various categories that have been presented throughout the semester and write up a lesson outline using one of several models of teaching introduced at the end of the semester. More detailed instructions for the assignment will be provided with the syllabus. Papers will cite course texts.

Required Texts:

1. Denise Janssen, ed., *Educating for Redemptive Community* (Wipf & Stock, 2015). ISBN 1498208169. Retail: \$22.00.
2. Thomas H. Groome, *Will There Be Faith?* (Harper One, 2011) ISBN 978-0-06-203728-2. Retail: \$15.99
3. Robert W. Pazmiño, *Latin American Journey: Insights for Christian Education in North America* (Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2002) ISBN 1-59244-034-7 \$23.00
4. Anne Streaty Wimberly, *Soul Stories: African American Christian Education: Revised* (Abingdon, 2005) ISBN: 068749432X \$19.00.

Additional required articles and essays will be provided.

Recommended Texts:

1. W. Paul Jones, *Theological Worlds: Understanding the Alternative Rhythms of Christian Belief* (Abingdon, 1989) ISBN 0687414709 Retail: \$23.50
2. Maria Harris, *Fashion Me a People: Curriculum in the Church*, (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989) ISBN 0664240526 \$24.95
3. Kenneth H. Hill, *Religious Education in the African American Tradition: A Comprehensive Introduction* (Chalice Press, 2007) ISBN 0827208200. \$26.99
4. Karen B. Tye, *Basics of Christian Education* (Chalice Press, 2000) ISBN 0827202296. Retail: \$18.99
5. Mai-Anh Le Tran, *Reset the Heart: Unlearning Violence, Relearning Hope* (Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 2017). 176pp. \$35.99 paperback.

Grading procedures:

- “What is being learned through the life of your congregation?” paper. 33.3 %
 “Lesson Plan Analysis” paper. 33.3 %
 “Your educational ministry vision” paper. 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.