

BEACON UNIVERSITY

6003 Veterans Parkway, Columbus, GA 31909

SYLLABUS

- I. COURSE TITLE:** PM 545 Introduction to Christian Education
- II. COURSE PREREQUISITES:** None
- III. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will introduce students to the field of Christian education. The student will gain insight into the history and philosophy of education within the Christian church. This course will also provide the student with the ability to gain knowledge and skills to enhance their own educational ministries within the church.
- IV. COURSE RATIONALE:**
- A. *Philosophical:* Education is one foundation in equipping the body of Christ for service. Matthew 28:19-20 includes the admonition to make disciples. This course seeks to give an overview of the educational component of the Great Commission and to introduce the value of this aspect of Christian ministry to the graduate student.
 - B. *Practical:* A seminary graduate must master insights and skills that will enable the student to become an effective educator, no matter what form of vocational service the student chooses.
- V. COURSE GOALS:**
- A. To converse in the language of Christian education.
 - B. To understand the theology of Christian education and be able to articulate a theological case for education in the church.
 - C. To know the development of Christian education throughout history.
 - D. To be able to discuss the differences between large and small churches in the administration of church educational programs.
 - E. To be able to discuss what is needed to develop a plan for organizing the educational program in a specific ministry setting.
- VI. MEASURABLE OUTCOMES:**
- A. The student will be able to review and interact critically with relevant literature in the area of Christian education (supplementary reading, book review).
 - B. The student will be able to discuss the purpose and goals of Christian education (exam).
 - C. The student will be able to discuss the biblical basis for Christian education (exam).
 - D. The student will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of a Christian education program (paper).

VII. COURSE OUTLINE:

Module	Dates	Assignments
Module 1	Jan 12 – 25	Video Sessions 1-3, Discussion Forum #1
Module 2	Jan 26 – Feb 8	Video Sessions 4-6, Discussion Forum #2
Module 3	Feb 9 – 22	Video Sessions 7-9, Discussion Forum #3
Module 4	Feb 23 – March 8	Video Session 10, Discussion Forum #4, Book Review
Module 5	March 9 – 22	Video Sessions 11-13, Discussion Forum #5
Module 6	March 30 – April 12	Video Sessions 14-16, Discussion Forum #6
Module 7	April 13 – 26	Video Session 17-19, Discussion Forum #7, Annotated Bibliography
Module 8	April 27 – May 8	Video Session 20, Discussion Forum #8, Reflection Paper, Final exam

VIII. COURSE METHOD: Because each session will be videotaped for distance education purposes, the primary method of instruction will be lecture.

IX. COURSE TEXT:

Powers, Bruce ed. *Christian Education Handbook*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1996.
ISBN: 0805410600

X. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. Discussion.

1. Every two weeks (Module) a new Discussion Forum assignment will be posted. Participation in the Forum will be required.
2. Please post your response to the Forum assignment and then post a reply to at least one of the other student's posts. Both your post and your reply will be graded for content and language usage.

B. Reading.

1. Read the entire assigned textbook.
2. Read 350 pages from supplementary articles and books. An annotated bibliography of the reading will be submitted. Due at the end of the seventh module.

C. Testing.

There will be final exam at the end of the course. It will be an essay exam based on the content of the course sessions. Due at the end of the eighth module

D. Research & Writing.

1. Write a book review of the text edited by Powers. The review must be 1,000 words and follow the guidelines provided. Due at the end of the fourth module.
2. A reflection paper must be presented in two parts.
 - a. Part one should include a description of the education program in the student's current church setting. This section should include a description of the current class structure, the method of selecting and training teachers, and the type of literature utilized.

- b. Part two should include an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the current education program. What improvements need to be made?
- c. It should be a minimum of twelve 2,000 words, typed, double-spaced, using Times New Roman font, and prepared according to Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed.
- d. Due at the end of the eighth module.

XI. COURSE EVALUATION:

A. Grade

Exam	25%
Supplementary Reading	15%
Book Review	20%
Reflection Paper	25%
Discussion Forums	<u>15%</u>
	100%

- B. Attendance & Late Grades:** Regular, successful and punctual attendance is expected of all students enrolled. The student who presents the instructor with an adequate and documented reason for an absence will be given an opportunity to make up the work. Adequate reasons involve circumstances beyond the student's control. It is the responsibility of the student to make the necessary arrangements to make up missed assignments, including exams. If an adequate reason is not given and/or arrangements are not made, the grade for the assignment/exam may be reduced as a result. The grade for "Class Participation" will be based largely on consistent attendance.

- C. Beacon University Plagiarism Policy:** According to the American Heritage Dictionary, 2nd College Edition, plagiarism is defined as taking and using "as one's own the writings or ideas of another." Plagiarism shall include failure to use quotation marks or other conventional markings around material quoted from another source. Plagiarism shall also include paraphrasing a specific passage from a source without indicating accurately what that source is. Plagiarism shall further include letting another person compose or rewrite a student's written assignment. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will be subject to a range of penalties up to, and including, dismissal from the University. All incidents of academic dishonesty are to be reported by the faculty member to the Academic Vice President.

XII. COURSE INSTRUCTOR:

Name: Larry Asplund

Degrees:

B.A., Philosophy and Biblical Studies

M.A., Biblical Literature
D.Min., Leadership and Spiritual Formation
Faculty Rank: Assistant Professor
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E-Mail: larry.asplund@beacon.edu
Office Hours on Campus: 8-5, Monday through Friday

XIII. COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Coleman, Lucien. *How to Teach the Bible*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1979.
Downs, Perry G. *Teaching for Spiritual Growth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
Edge, Findley B. *A Quest for Vitality in Religion*. Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 1993.
_____. *Teaching for Results*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1956.
Foltz, Nancy ed. *Christian Education in the Small Membership Church*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1990.
Foster, Charles R. *Educating Congregations*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994.
Kowalski, Theodore. *The Organization and Planning of Adult Education*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1988.
Schuller, David S. ed. *Rethinking Christian Education*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1993.